

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the amendments to the claims and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-20 stand rejected. Claims 1 and 14 have been amended of which claims 1 and 14 are independent claims. Dependent claims 21-22 were added. Support for the new claims are found in the specification on page 11, line 10 and the drawings, FIG. 2, reference character 270. Claims 1-22 are pending.

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over admitted Prior Art ("APA") (specification FIG. 1 and 2 and page 1, line 13 to page 5, line 11) in view of Rapp (US Pat App Pub No. 2003/0147126). In response, applicants have amended claims 1 and 14. Support for the amendment to the base claims is found on page 9, line 21 to page 10, line 1 (FIG. 2, reference character 260). Applicants believe that the amended base claims are now no longer rendered obvious over the prior as set forth below.

Claim 1 and 14, as amended, now recites a semiconductor optical amplifier (SOA) module apparatus for amplifying an optical signal received from an input optical fiber, and transmitting the amplified optical signal to an output optical fiber, comprising, *inter alia*, wherein the first monitor photo-diode is configured to receive and detect a power level of the ASE light passing through the first isolator and **disposed at a predetermined angle relative to the first isolator.**

In contrast, APA, discloses a photodiode disposed parallel to the first isolator as shown in FIG. 1, reference character 162. Hence, the APA's photodiode has no angle relative to the first isolator. Therefore, the APA fails to suggest or teach a first monitor photo-diode **disposed at a predetermined angle relative to the first isolator,** as recited in the amended base claims.

Moreover, Rapp similarly discloses a photodiode which is parallel to a isolator as seen in FIG. 3 and 4, reference character 12. Hence, the Rapp's photodiode has no angle relative to the isolator. Therefore the Rapp fails to suggest or teach a first monitor photo-diode **disposed at a predetermined angle relative to the first isolator**, as recited in the amended base claims.

Therefore, the APA alone or combined with Rapp fails to suggest or teach a first monitor photo-diode **disposed at a predetermined angle relative to the first isolator**, as recited in the amended base claims.

Applicant respectfully request withdrawal of this ground of rejections.

The other claims in this application are each dependent on the independent claims 1 and 14 and believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

For all the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all the present claims are patentable in view of the cited references. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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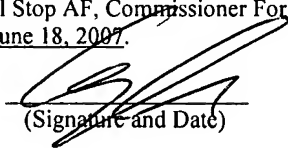
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